

International Symposium

“HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN GLOBAL SOUTH: *Emerging Perspectives in the Era of Post-Millennium Development Goals*”

28–29 April 2014, New Delhi

The Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi and *Wada Na Todo Abhiyan* (WNTA), a leading umbrella organization representing the civil society, in association with UN-ESCAP is organizing an international symposium on “Human Development in South Asia: Emerging Perspectives for the Post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” during 27-29 April 2014, at New Delhi.

The proposed symposium is part of an ongoing initiative being undertaken by IHD on the post-MDG development discourses and agenda, in partnership with WNTA. Under this collaborative partnership, a collection of leading academic voices or *ThinkPieces* from well-known scholars and commentators on the diverse dimensions of development was produced and disseminated along the sidelines of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York during September 2013. In continuation with this agenda, the high-level international symposium is being organized to facilitate intensive deliberations on the key thematic issues pertaining to development that are relevant for the MDGs. These issues span a wide range of themes including poverty and basic needs, social protection, food security and nutrition, healthcare, education, and inclusive social policies. About 200 leading experts, scholars, social activists and development practitioners, including several from the countries of the Global South, are expected to participate in this high-profile event. The deliberations of the symposium plenaries as well as the during the dedicated thematic working groups would help generate a crucial body of opinion and evidence on the development pathways for the developing world in the post-MDG era.

Some important emerging issues relevant for the post-MDG era would be taken up for deliberations during the symposium in the form of theme papers and perspective papers during the plenary sessions, and invited commentaries and open discussions during the parallel working group meetings. The thematic areas to be covered include poverty and

social protection, food and nutrition security, employment, health and health care, education and skills, and social inclusion. Additionally, during the opening plenary and the valedictory session, the deliberations would specifically focus on the policy options for facilitating an equitable, inclusive development roadmap for the global south, and for fostering south-south cooperation and development partnerships.

Both the theme paper, which would predominantly highlight the cross-regional issues, as well as the country perspectives, would focus on some of the following aspects:

- A stock taking of the prevailing situation, achievements and emerging challenges;
- Identification of obstacles/barriers to the achievement of the existing MDGs, under the prevalent socio-economic, governance and other structural frameworks, along with a stock-taking of the achievements;
- Delineation of ideas or policy options for ensuring better, and more inclusive and effective implementation of various policies and programmes in order to attain the MDGs, as also other similar national/international commitments; and
- Earmarking of the particular goals or objectives to be pursued during the post-2015 era, and mapping of the most suitable pathways for achieving these goals.

The recommended length for the theme papers and perspective papers would be about 6000 words and 4000 words, respectively. Additionally, the Lead Commentators (in the Working Groups) would present structured comments/discussion points/opinions on the regional and perspective papers presented at the plenaries during the symposium.